

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 17, cancel claim 9, and add new claim 26 as follows.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A chair for supporting and spacing concrete reinforcement members, comprising:
 - a unitary integrally formed body including an upper receiving area and a lower base,
 - the receiving area adapted to receive the concrete reinforcement members and including at least two pairs of diametrically opposed notches,
 - wherein the two pairs of diametrically opposed notches have different depths, the chair being adapted to support the reinforcement members at different heights and in perpendicular relationships to one another,
 - the base adapted to rest on a planar support surface,
 - the body having an inner surface and an outer surface, the surfaces being substantially complementary to each other to allow a plurality of chairs to be stacked within one another for storage and shipment, and
 - ~~a plurality of ribs on the outer surface and extending outwardly from an outer profile of the body to facilitate separating individual chairs from a stack, each rib extending in a direction from the lower base toward the upper receiving area and having a length that spans only a portion of the outer surface~~

wherein each notch comprises a bearing surface defined by a lip extending inwardly from the outer surface such that the bearing surface is cantilevered beyond the inner surface.

2-3. (CANCELED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The chair of claim 1, wherein each of the at least one pair of notches is connected by a bridge therebetween, the bridge connecting the troughs of the notches.

5. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 1, the base including a plurality of support legs extending downwardly from the receiving area and defining a plurality of apertures, the apertures operable to allow poured concrete to pass fluidly through the body.

6. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 5, wherein the base includes four support legs, two of the support legs further including foot members extending horizontally outwardly therefrom, the remaining two support legs lacking a foot member.

7. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 6, wherein the foot members extend from two diagonally opposite support legs.

8. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 5, wherein the support legs include a thickened band of material around the apertures.

9. (CANCELED)

10. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 1, the base including upper and lower support legs, the upper support legs extending downwardly from the receiving area and defining upper apertures, the lower support legs extending downwardly from the upper support legs and defining lower apertures.

11. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 10, wherein the lower support legs are longer than the upper support legs.

4. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 10, wherein the lower support legs include a thickened band of material around the lower apertures.

5. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 10, wherein the apertures are arch-shaped.

14-15. (CANCELED)

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The chair of claim 1, wherein the chair is made of polypropylene and is one-piece injection molded.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A chair for supporting and spacing concrete reinforcement members, comprising:

a unitary, integrally formed, hollow body including an inner surface, an outer surface, a receiving area, and a base,

the base defining a lower opening and adapted to rest on a planar support surface,

the receiving area adapted to receive and support the concrete reinforcement members,

the receiving area including a first and a second pair of notches, the second pair of notches being oriented ninety degrees from the first pair, the first pair of notches being deeper than the second pair of notches, wherein the reinforcement members can be positioned at different heights and in perpendicular relationships to one another within the receiving area,

the base including a plurality of support legs defining a plurality of apertures therebetween, the apertures operable to allow poured concrete to pass fluidly through the chair;

wherein the body is generally funnel-shaped with the lower opening being larger than the receiving area, and the inner and outer surfaces being substantially complementary to each other to allow a plurality of chairs to be stacked within each other for storage and shipment and a plurality of ribs on the outer surface and extending outwardly from an outer profile of the body to facilitate separating an individual chair

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from a stack; ~~, each rib extending in a direction from the base toward the receiving area~~

and having a length that spans only a portion of the outer surface

wherein each notch comprises a bearing surface defined by a lip extending inwardly from the outer surface such that the bearing surface is cantilevered beyond the inner surface.

18. (CANCELED)

19. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 17, wherein a bridge extends between each of the pairs of notches, the bridge joining the medial, lowest portions of the notches.

20. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 17, the base including four support legs, wherein at least two of the four support legs further include foot members extending horizontally outwardly therefrom, the other two support legs lacking a foot member.

21. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 20, wherein the foot members extend from two diagonally opposed support legs.

22. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 17, wherein the apertures are arch-shaped, the support legs having a thickened band of material around the apertures.

23. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 17, wherein the base includes upper and lower support legs, the upper support legs extending downwardly from the receiving area and configured to support the receiving area, the lower support legs extending downwardly from and configured to support the upper support legs.

24. (ORIGINAL) The chair of claim 23, wherein the lower support legs have a thickened band of material around the apertures.

25. (CANCELED)

26. (NEW) The chair of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of ribs on the outer surface to facilitate separating the chair from a stack.